

# OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2001 EXPENDITURE	FY 2002 APPROPRIATION	FY 2003 REQUEST	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FY 2003
Defender Services	\$ 25,065,578	\$ 27,749,072	\$ 38,128,344	\$ 27,749,072
Federal Grants	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,129,452	1,214,534	1,216,142	1,214,534
Homicide/Conflict of Interest Cases	1,854,947	2,059,850	2,059,850	2,059,850
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$ 28,049,977	\$ 31,148,456	\$ 41,529,336	\$ 31,148,456
PERSONAL SERVICE				
General Revenue Fund	20,299,613	22,024,481	28,037,315	22,024,481
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	46,548	57,178	58,786	57,178
EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT				
General Revenue Fund	6,620,912	7,784,441	12,150,879	7,784,441
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,065,859	1,157,356	1,157,356	1,157,356
PROGRAM SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION				
Federal Funds	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	17,045	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$ 28,049,977	\$ 31,148,456	\$ 41,529,336	\$ 31,148,456
General Revenue Fund	26,920,525	29,808,922	40,188,194	29,808,922
Federal Funds	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,129,452	1,214,534	1,216,142	1,214,534
Full-time equivalent employees	558.13	558.13	567.63	558.13

## POLICY SUMMARY

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution assures that no person accused of a crime and unable to pay for legal assistance shall face trial without counsel. Established in 1982 through Chapter 600 RSMo, the Office of the State Public Defender exists as a "system for providing defense services to every jurisdiction within the state by means of a centrally administered organization having a full-time staff." The State Public Defender System fulfills the constitutional guarantee of legal counsel for persons accused of criminal offenses in Missouri's 45 judicial circuits (embracing 114 counties and the City of St. Louis).

Functioning as an independent department of the Missouri judicial branch, the Office of the State Public Defender is charged with providing legal defense for indigents accused of criminal offenses. Caseload has grown from 26,667 cases in Fiscal Year 1981 to 87,328 projected cases in Fiscal Year 2003, an increase of 227 percent. Homicide cases, which place extraordinary demands on public defenders, have increased substantially, and scientific advances such as DNA testing have required the increased use of expert witnesses and independent lab tests. In addition, Missouri's expanding initiative to civilly commit sexually violent predators is requiring increasing and ongoing litigation.

A properly funded public defender system is essential to the swift and certain punishment of crime. The Governor's recommendations provide ongoing funding of \$31,148,456 enabling the Office of the State Public Defender to continue to provide the constitutional guarantee of legal counsel.

### Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

Continue funding at the current level.

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